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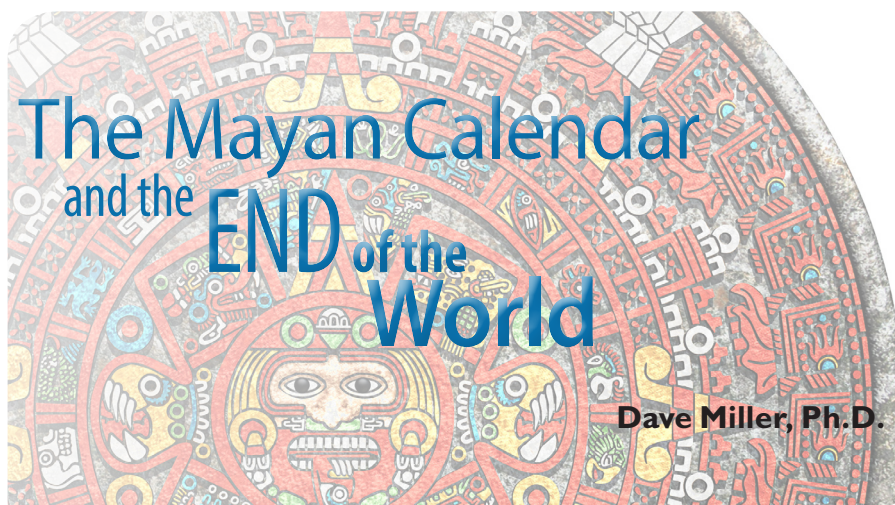
# The Mayan Calendar: Will the World End this Month?

***Who Wrote the  
Laws of Science?***

***Are Creationists Qualified  
to Discuss Science?***

***New Kids Reader***





**Y**OU'VE no doubt heard the hub-bub: Supposedly, the ancient Mayans predicted that the world will end on December 21, 2012 at 11 p.m. A recent poll found that “nearly 10% of people believe that the year 2012 on the Mayan calendar signifies an apocalyptic collapse” (“New Mayan...,” 2012). What is one to make of such claims? How concerned ought we to be?

In reality, the only reliable source of information concerning end-time events is the Bible. It is, in fact, the only book on the planet of **divine** origin (cf. Butt, 2007). All other books that claim to be from the one true God do not bear up under objective scrutiny. Only the Bible possesses the attributes of inspiration. Only the Bible can provide humans with accurate insight into the future. That being the case, one would hardly expect a pagan, idolatrous civilization to serve as a legitimate source for ascertaining the truth regarding the end of the world.

So what does the Bible say on the matter? Throughout the thousands of years of human history, bona fide representatives of the one true God frequently predicted future events with complete accuracy. The Old Testament is filled with prophecy and prediction concerning a host of historical

occurrences—all of which came true as predicted (cf. Thompson, 2003). In stark contrast, however, **the Bible goes out of its way to avoid setting a date for the end of the world.** In fact, Jesus stated unequivocally the truth on the matter: “But of that day and hour **no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only” (Matthew 24:36, emp. added).

But why? Since the Bible contains hundreds of prophecies of future events, why would God refrain from giving signs, indicators, and predictions concerning the end of the world? For one thing, it would be **unfair** to do so, because it would give people living long before the end the advantage of knowing Jesus would not come in their day. It would be contrary to God’s nature since it would imply that He is partial.

Speaking in A.D. 30, Jesus stressed very firmly that, while there would be clear signs heralding the destruction of Jerusalem 40 years later in A.D. 70 by the Romans (Matthew 24:1-35), He was equally adamant that no such signs would mark the end of the world and His second coming (Matthew 24:36-25:46). In stark contrast, the return of Jesus and the end of the world will be comparable to Noah’s day:

But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of

Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and **did not know** until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be (Matthew 24:37-39, emp. added).

The return is also compared to the arrival of a thief: “[I]f the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:43-44, emp. added; cf. 2 Peter 3:10— “[T]he day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night.”). Jesus further declared: “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming” (Matthew 25:13). [NOTE: The quibble that suggests that Jesus merely meant that you cannot know the hour or day, but that you can know the year or the general time, sidesteps the force of these verses and evades the very point that Jesus was making, i.e., the time of the end is unpredictable and unknown to humans.]

#### MAYAN CALENDAR DETAILS

**S**o what are the specific details surrounding the Mayan calendar? One must turn to the experts—the scholars who have spent their lives studying Mayan civilization. The fact is that they speak with one accord. The 2012 hype comes—not from the studied authorities of Mayan civilization—but, as noted by Susan Gillespie, University of Florida anthropologist, “from media and from other people making use of the Maya past to fulfill agendas that are

really their own" (MacDonald, 2007). Maya archaeoastronomer and curator of the Florida Museum of Natural History, Susan Milbrath, explained: "It would be impossible [that] the Maya themselves would have known that" (MacDonald). What's more, she says, "we have **no record or knowledge** that they would think the world would come to an end at that point" (emp. added).

The facts of the matter are that December 21, 2012 on the Mayan Long Count calendar is simply the day that the calendar will go to what scholars call the next "b'ak'tun" or cycle. Sandra Noble, executive director of the Mesoamerican research organization FAMSI, noted that "for the ancient Maya, it was a huge celebration to make it to the end of a whole cycle" ("The Long...", n.d.). Hence, she considers the alleged December 2012 hoopla to be "a complete fabrication and a chance for a lot of people to cash in" ("The Long..."). The Mayan calendar simply shows the ancient Mayans' fascination with ongoing "cycles of time"—with no indication that they even entertained the notion of the end of the world (Vance, 2012). Further, scholars have just recently discovered wall writings in Guatemala show Mayan calendars that go well beyond 2012 (Vergano, 2012; Potter, 2012).

## NOTHING NEW

**I**NDEED, such sensational allegations are not new. Legion are the instances over the last 2,000 years in which individuals and groups have set "firm" dates for the end of the world. Consider a few. [NOTE: The following is taken from "Library of Date Setters...", n.d.] Events leading up to the year A.D. 1000 were viewed by many as harbingers of the end. These included a solar eclipse in 968 that created panic in the German army of

Emperor Otto I and Hailey's Comet in 989. The decade preceding January 1, 1000 saw people giving their worldly goods to the poor, pilgrims massing in Jerusalem to meet Jesus, buildings left in disrepair, fields unplanted, and even criminals released from jails. Thirty years later, the approach of A.D. 1033 was believed by many to be the onset of the millennium, since they thought it marked 1,000 years since the crucifixion of Christ. A terrible famine struck France in 1030, together with an eclipse and a massive earthquake the same year, convincing many of an imminent end, eliciting penitential processions, including a mass pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

To Londoners in 1666, the end of the world must have seemed self-evident. In addition to the bubonic plague, which killed some 100,000 people, the Great Fire of London swept the city the same year. Since 1666 was a millennium (1,000 years) coupled with the mark of the beast (666), many were firmly convinced the end was near. In 1843, William Miller attracted much attention and many followers when he announced the return of Christ

between 1843 and 1844. Though a spectacular meteor shower in 1833 was seen as a harbinger, the predicted date of March 21, 1843 passed without incident. In 1910, the return of Hailey's Comet was again seen by some to be an indication of the end. Impetus was gained when the Earth actually passed through the comet's gaseous tail. Charles Taze Russell, along with the establishment of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, commenced an end-times movement that has repeatedly set the time of the end, the first in 1914—with many to follow. With each failure, recalculations are made and theology is adjusted accordingly.

Circumstances surrounding the formal establishment of the modern state of Israel in May of 1948 unleashed a flood of endless predictions, speculations, and allegations that continue to this day—all claiming the end is near. These include Hal Lindsey (*Late Great Planet Earth*, 1970); Ron Reese ("In the Twinkling of an Eye"); Moses David (The Children of God); the True Light Church; Walter Simmons (*The Day of the Lord*, 1978, *The Final Warning*

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*Sign*); Bill Maupin (Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation); Edgar Whisenant ("Rapture in Rosh Hashanna"); David Koresh and the Branch Davidians; John Hinkle (Christ's Church, Los Angeles); and Harold Camping (*Are You Ready?*). And of course, Y2K unleashed a whole new round of doomsday conmen who proposed everything from massive natural disasters (e.g., Jack Van Impe), to WWII, and worldwide shutdown of computer systems.

While most of these would-be prophets have claimed affiliation with Christianity, the non-Christian community has had its own share of prognosticators—including the Harmonic Convergence predicted by New Age proponents in 1987; California psychic Sheldon Nidle, who predicted 16 million space ships would converge on Earth in 1996; the International Association of Psychics in 1997, who claimed that 92% of their 120,000 members had the same end-time vision; a Russian scientist who, relying on Nostradamus prophecies, predicted the end in 1997 in the form of a shifting of the Earth's axis, causing massive flooding and the arrival of aliens; the Sacerdotal Knights of National Security who predicted an alien invasion November 11, 1997; psychic Edgar Cayce who alleged the end in 1998 with massive disruption to the Earth; psychic Charles Criswell King who predicted the end in 1999; and many, many others. In fact, the present hype surrounding the Mayan calendar comes largely from New Age writers misinterpreting the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar (cf. Lawrence Joseph's *Apocalypse 2012: A Scientific Investigation Into Civilization's End*; spiritual healer Andrew Smith's *The Revolution of 2012: Vol. 1, The Preparation*; and Daniel Pinchbeck's *2012*; see "The Truth About...", n.d.).

Gamaliel rightly warned his contemporaries concerning those who would lead people astray 2,000 years ago:

For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed (Acts 5:36-37).

Even regarding the signs that Jesus said would precede the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, He warned: "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' **do not believe it**" (Matthew 24:23, emp. added). Why? Jesus said, "For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:27). Similarly, when God brings about the end of time, no one will need any input from any other human to know of its occurrence; the end will be so cataclysmic that it will be evident to all (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).

While the world may well end this month—it will not be due to the Mayan calendar or any other would-be prophet knowing it. But do not take the scholars word for the truth about the Mayan calendar. Just wait until 11:00 p.m. December 21 to see for yourself. When the alleged end fails to materialize, rather than breathe a sigh of relief and go on your merry way, you would do well to turn to the Bible for the unchanging truth and solid rock of God's Word. We are again reminded of the unerring words of the Savior of the world in His assessment of His return:

Therefore, **stay awake, for you do not know on what day your**

**Lord is coming.** But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore **you also must be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Matthew 24:42-44, emp. added).

Are **you** ready?

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# The Laws of Science -by God

Jeff Miller, Ph.D.

**T**HE laws of nature have been discovered through extensive scientific investigation—gathering mounds and mounds of evidence, all of which has proven consistently to point to one conclusion. They are, by definition, a concluding statement that has been drawn from the scientific evidence, and therefore, are in keeping with the rule of logic known as the Law of Rationality (Ruby, 1960, pp. 130-131). If anything can be said to be “scientific,” it is the laws of science, and to hold to a view or theory that contradicts the laws of science is, by definition, irrational, since such a theory would contradict the evidence from science.

The laws of science explain how things work in nature at all times—without exception. The *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms* defines a scientific law as “a regularity which applies to **all** members of a broad class of phenomena” (2003, p. 1182, emp. added). Notice that the writers use the word “all” rather than “some” or even “most.” There are no exceptions to a law of science. Wherever a law is applicable, it has been found to be without exception.

Evolutionists endorse wholeheartedly the laws of science. Evolutionary geologist Robert Hazen, a research scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington’s Geophysical Lab, who graduated with a Ph.D. from Harvard, in his lecture series on the origin of life, states, “In this lecture series, I make an assumption that life emerged [i.e., spontaneously generated—JM] from basic raw materials through a sequence of events that was **completely consistent with the natural laws of chemistry and physics**” (Hazen, 2005, emp. added). Even on something as unfounded as postulating the origin of life from non-life—

a proposition which flies in the face of all scientific evidence to the contrary—evolutionists do not wish to resort to calling such a phenomenon an **exception** to the laws of nature. After all, **there are no exceptions** to the laws. Instead, they hope, without evidence, that their claims will prove to be **in keeping** with some elusive, hitherto undiscovered, scientific evidence in the future that will be “completely consistent with the natural laws.” [NOTE: Such an approach is the equivalent of brushing aside the mounds of evidence for the existence of gravity in order to develop a theory that asserts that tomorrow, all humanity will start levitating up from the surface of the Earth. Science has already spoken on that matter, and to postulate such a theory would be unscientific. It would go against the evidence from science. Similarly, science has already spoken on the matter of life from non-life and shown that abiogenesis **does not occur** in nature, according to the Law of Biogenesis (see Miller, 2012), or in the words of Hazen, abiogenesis is completely **inconsistent** “with the natural laws of chemistry and physics.” And yet he, along with all atheistic evolutionists, continues to promote evolutionary theory in spite of this crucial piece of evidence to the contrary.] Evolutionists believe in the natural laws, even if they fail to concede the import of their implications with regard to atheistic evolution.

Richard Dawkins, a world renowned evolutionary biologist and professor of zoology at Oxford University, put his stamp of endorsement on the laws of nature as well. While conjecturing (without evidence) about the possibility of life in outer space, he said, “But that higher intelligence would, itself, had to have come about by some ultimately explicable process. It couldn’t have just jumped

into existence spontaneously” (Stein and Miller, 2008). Dawkins admits that life could not pop into existence from non-life. But why? Because that would contradict a well-known and respected law of science that is based on mounds of scientific evidence and that has no exception: the Law of Biogenesis. Of course evolution, which Dawkins wholeheartedly subscribes to, **requires** abiogenesis, which contradicts the Law of Biogenesis. However, notice that Dawkins so respects the laws of nature that he cannot bring himself to consciously and openly admit that his theory requires the violation of said law. Self-delusion can be a powerful narcotic.

Famous atheist, theoretical physicist, and cosmologist of Cambridge University, Stephen Hawking, highly reveres the laws of science as well. In 2011, he hosted a show on *Discovery Channel* titled, “Curiosity: Did God Create the Universe?” In that show, he said,

[T]he Universe is a machine governed by principles or laws—laws that can be understood by the human mind. I believe that the discovery of these laws has been humankind’s greatest achievement.... But what’s really important is that these physical laws, as well as being **unchangeable**, are universal. They apply not just to the flight of the ball, but to the motion of a planet and everything else in the Universe. Unlike laws made by humans, the laws of nature **cannot ever be broken**. That’s why they are so powerful (“Curiosity...,” 2011, emp. added).

According to Hawking, the laws of nature exist, are unbreakable (i.e., without exception), and apply to the entire Universe—not just to the Earth.

Again, the atheistic evolutionary community believes in the existence of and highly respects the laws of science (i.e., when those laws coincide with the evolutionist’s viewpoints) and would not wish to consciously deny or contradict them. Sadly, they do so, **and often**, when it comes to their beloved atheistic, origin theories. But that admission by the evolutionary community presents a major



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problem for atheism. Humanist Martin Gardner said,

Imagine that physicists finally discover all the basic waves and their particles, and all the basic laws, and unite everything in one equation. We can then ask, "Why that equation?" It is fashionable now to conjecture that the big bang was caused by a random quantum fluctuation in a vacuum devoid of space and time. But of course such a vacuum is a far cry from nothing. **There had to be quantum laws to fluctuate. And why are there quantum laws?... There is no escape from the superultimate questions: Why is there something rather than nothing, and why is the something structured the way it is?** (2000, p. 303, emp. added).

Even if Big Bang cosmology were correct (and it is not), you still can't have a law without a law writer. In "Curiosity: Did God Create the Universe?" Hawking boldly claims that everything in the Universe can be accounted for through atheistic evolution without the need of God. This is untrue, as we have discussed elsewhere (e.g., Miller, 2011), but notice that Hawking does not even believe that assertion himself. He said, "Did God create the quantum laws that allowed the Big Bang to occur? In a nutshell, did we need a god to set it all up so that the Big Bang could bang?" ("Curiosity..."). He provided no answer to these crucial questions—not even an attempt. And he is not alone. No atheist can provide an adequate answer to those questions.

The eminent atheistic, theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and astrobiologist of Arizona State University, Paul Davies, noted Hawking's sidestep of that question in the "round table discussion" on the *Discovery Channel* following "Curiosity," titled, "The Creation Question: a Curiosity Conversation." Concerning Hawking, Davies said,

In the show, Stephen Hawking gets very, very close to saying, "Well, where did the laws of physics come from? That's where we might find some sort of God." And then he backs away and

doesn't return to the subject.... You need to know where those laws come from. That's where the mystery lies—the laws ("The Creation Question....," 2011).

In his book, *The Grand Design*, Hawking tries (and fails) to submit a way that the Universe could have created itself from nothing in keeping with the laws of nature without God—an impossible concept, to be sure. He says, "Because there is a law like gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing" (2010, p. 180). Of course, even if such were possible (and it is not), he does not explain where the law of gravity came from. A more rational statement would have been the following: "Because there is a law like gravity, the Universe must have been created by God."

Just as the evidence says that you cannot have a poem without a poet, a fingerprint without a finger, or a material effect without a cause, a law must be written by someone. But the atheistic community does not believe in the "Someone" Who alone could have written the laws of nature. So the atheist stands in the dark mist of irrationality—holding to a viewpoint that contradicts the evidence. However, the Christian has no qualms with the existence of the laws of nature. They provide no problem or inconsistency with the Creation model. Long before the laws of thermodynamics were formally articulated in the 1850s and long before the Law of Biogenesis was formally proven by Louis Pasteur in 1864, the laws of science were written in stone and set in place to govern the Universe by the Being in Whom we believe. Recall the last few chapters of the book of Job, where God commenced a speech, humbling Job with the awareness that Job's knowledge and understanding of the workings of the Universe were extremely deficient in comparison with the omniscience and omnipotence of Almighty God. Two of the humbling questions that God asked Job to ponder were, "Do you know the ordinances ["laws"—NIV] of the heavens? Can you set their domin-

ion ["rule"—ESV] over the earth?" (Job 38:33). These were rhetorical questions, and the obvious answer from Job was, "No, Sir." He could not even **know** of all the laws, much less could he **understand** them, and even less could he have written them and established their rule over the Earth. Only a Supreme Being transcendent of the natural Universe would have the power to do such a thing.

According to the Creation model and in keeping with the evidence, that Supreme Being is the God of the Bible, Who created everything in the Universe in six literal days, only a few thousand years ago. In the words of the 19th-century song writer, Lowell Mason, "Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken; worlds His mighty voice obeyed; laws which never shall be broken, for their guidance He hath made. Hallelujah! Amen" (Howard, 1977, #427).

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# "You Creationists are Not Qualified to Discuss Such Matters"

Jeff Miller, Ph.D.

A COMMON quibble laid at the feet of the creationist is that he/she is not qualified to speak about scientific matters relating to the creation/evolution controversy. For instance, Mark Isaak, the editor of *The Index to Creationist Claims*, stated that "for every creationist who claims one thing, there are dozens of scientists (probably more), **all with far greater professional qualifications**, who say the opposite" (2005, emp. added). Others assert that creationists make "the elementary mistake of trying to discuss a highly specialized field...in which they have little or no training" (Holloway, 2010). Do these assertions have any merit?

First, such assertions are ironic in light of other statements by some in the evolutionary community. For example, in the "General Tips" section of the article, "How to Debate a Creationist," the *Creationism versus Science* Web site tells its followers,

**you don't need to become a qualified expert** [in relevant evolutionary subject matters—JM]...but you should endeavour to know as much or more about these subjects than your opponent does (which is often a surprisingly easy task, since most creationists learn only the barest superficialities of any given scientific principle before feeling confident enough to pontificate on it) (2007, parenthetical item in orig., emp. added).

It seems that some do not wish to hold all participants to the same standards. It is clear that the author wished for his audience to be able to win a debate, rather than consider the validity of the arguments being posed by creationists.

It is important to realize that when a person wishes to discuss a certain matter, it is not always necessary for the indi-

vidual to have the relevant experience or credentials (as deemed necessary by the atheistic evolutionary community) in that area. Consider: Are certain qualifications needed before an individual can quote or paraphrase others who **are** considered "experts" on a certain matter, as do many creationists and **evolutionists** (especially in the media)? Does one need a B.A. degree in English before he would be considered qualified enough to be able to cite references? And would **that** degree be enough to prove qualification? Perhaps a **graduate level** degree in English would be necessary? Such a proposition would be preposterous. Even if a person had such qualifications, it would not guarantee that the person is credible, and it certainly would not prove that the person is infallible. The key, of course, is to determine whether or not the quotations and/or paraphrases are done correctly, regardless of whom the commentator is. Creationists and evolutionists, as well as individuals in every professional field, often cite others who are considered "experts." This is a reasonable and acceptable practice.

Follow this line of reasoning even further. How far are the evolutionists willing to go in their demand for credentials? Should scientists have **direct** experience in every field in which they make an assertion? If not, why not? If a biology professor's doctoral research dealt primarily with the characteristics of St. Augustine grass, is he/she qualified to speak about the evolution of apes and humans? If an atheist only received a B.A. degree in religion, would such a person be qualified to speak on the most notable, alleged, atheistic mechanism for the origin of man—namely the General Theory of Evolution? If not, then atheistic debater Dan Barker



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has no business speaking out about it and should be silenced (see Butt and Barker, 2009). **Even Charles Darwin, the "father" of the General Theory of Evolution, only had a degree in the-ology**, having dropped out of the only other fields of formal education he at one time pursued—the medical and law professions (Thompson, 1981, p. 104). Based on the standards being imposed by some in the evolutionary community, he had no business speaking out about matters pertaining to biology and should not have been taken seriously. And yet his free-lance work as a naturalist was considered substantial enough to gain him credibility upon writing *The Origin of Species*. We would argue that his qualifications were irrelevant. His ideas should be scrutinized to determine their worth, rather than castigating him for his lack of a science degree. However, in order to be consistent, the evolutionary community must deem him unqualified to discuss evolution, and his theory should be rejected. Consider further: should an atheist be required to have credentials in theology in order to be able to speak against God? Should an atheist have credentials in Bible matters to be able to speak against the Bible? A lack of "qualifications" in religious matters does not seem to stop rabid atheists from attacking Christianity. Clearly, a double-standard in the atheistic evolutionary community is at work.

And **how much** experience is required before a person can be considered qualified? Who defines where the imaginary line is that distinguishes between the "qualified" and the "unqualified"—



whose thoughts and research should be considered and whose should be ignored? Who will be the qualifications policemen? Who determines what qualifications the qualifications policemen must have to be able to deem others qualified? And what credentials do those who ordain qualifications policemen have to have? If scientists were held to such standards, progress into new realms could never be made, since by definition, **there are no experts in such areas!** Thomas Edison received no higher education (“The Life of...,” 1999), and yet he invented the light bulb, founded General Electric Company, and filed 1,093 successful U.S. patent applications for his inventions (“Edison’s Patents,” 2010). In 1997, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers saw fit to establish the “Thomas A. Edison Patent Award” in his honor, again, in spite of his lack of higher learning (McKivor, 2010). Sir Isaac Newton received a bachelor’s degree, but without honors or distinction (Hatch, 2002). Should his work be disregarded? Consider also that his area of study was mathematics. How was he qualified to discuss physics, mechanics, dynamics, and other mechanical engineering concepts that are taught in engineering schools today? The Wright brothers did not even receive high school diplomas, much less receive a college education (Kelly, 1989, p. 37). The *Encyclopedia of World Biography* notes that Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company, “was a poor student. He never learned to spell or to read well. Ford would write using only the simplest of sentences” (“Henry Ford,” 2010). However, that did not stop people from buying his Model T. Nearly 15,500,000 were sold in the United States alone (“Henry Ford [1863-1947],” 2010). Jesus Christ, Himself, would not have had the credentials deemed necessary by the religious elites of His day to speak on theological matters. And yet, Jesus emphasized that truth is truth, regardless of one’s credentials, and the truth will set men free (John 8:32).

Another relevant point should be considered in this discussion as well. Creationists often speak about vari-



ous fundamental, non-technical problems with evolution, such as the fact that life cannot come from non-life, the Universe must have a cause, nothing lasts forever or pops into existence, and macroevolution does not happen. These, the creationist rightly contends, disprove atheistic evolution. The evolutionist often attempts to dodge these arguments by claiming that “creationists aren’t qualified” to discuss these matters. But there is a fundamental problem with that assertion. Since no one has ever witnessed, much less been able to study, abiogenesis; or witnessed an effect without a cause; or witnessed kinds of creatures giving rise to other kinds of creatures (e.g., apes giving rise to humans); there is no such thing as being “qualified” in such areas. How can one be qualified to discuss things that do not happen? One person is just as qualified as the next person to discuss such things. If someone has spent his entire life trying to find evidence that fairies fly around inside of children’s eyeballs, all to no avail, does that mean that he is more qualified to discuss that matter than someone else? Of course not. All he has done is waste his time coming to the same conclusion everyone else already intuitively knew. Everyone on Earth has the same amount of experience witnessing the fact that such things as abiogenesis and macroevolution do not happen. So any person is just as qualified as the next person to discuss them. Darwinian evolution is founded on principles for which there is no such thing as “being qualified” enough to discuss them. Conjecture and speculation—not proof—characterize evolutionary theory.

Bottom line: Anyone is eligible to take part in a discussion as long as he or she

is not speaking error. **That** is the critical issue. Consider: does one have to be qualified to speak the truth? Of course not. Truth is truth! It does not matter who speaks it. Unfortunately, many critics of creationists fail to address the creationist’s argument, but instead attack the speaker (e.g., the speaker’s credentials). This sidesteps the argument and attempts to distract hearers from analyzing the argument’s validity, which is a classic example of the *ad hominem* logical fallacy (“Fallacies,” 2007). Anyone who is able to speak correctly concerning a scientific matter due to personal work or experience, direct study, or through research into the work of others is eligible to take part in scientific discourse on the subject, given that the person is handling the matter accurately. As long as the laws of science are used correctly, anyone can teach their truths and should not be restricted from doing so through the silencing techniques being attempted by the evolutionary community.

As was mentioned above, some evolutionists assert that “there are dozens of scientists (probably more), all with far greater professional qualifications” than creationists (Isaak, 2005)—quite a bold statement, to say the least. It may be true that most scientists have bought into the hoax of evolution, as was the case when scientists believed in geocentricity, or that blood-letting was an appropriate prescription for curing ailments, but appealing to **numbers** proves nothing, and using such an argument causes one to fall victim to yet another logical fallacy—the *ad populum* fallacy (i.e., appeal to the majority) (“Fallacies,” 2007).

Although numbers ultimately mean nothing in regard to truth, creationists can certainly come up with an impressive list of “qualified” scientists who have examined the scientific evidence and concluded that the atheistic evolutionary model falls short in explaining our existence. Johannes Kepler, the father of modern astronomy and modern optics, was a firm Bible believer. Robert Boyle, the father of chemistry, was a Bible believer. Samuel F.B. Morse, who invented Morse Code, was a believer.



Wernher Von Braun, the father of the space program at NASA, was a strong believer in God and creation, as well as Louis Pasteur, the father of biology, Lord Kelvin, the father of thermodynamics, Sir Isaac Newton, the father of modern physics, and Faraday, the father of electromagnetism. Dozens of other well-known scientists from history could be cited (see Morris, 1990). *Creation Ministries International* posted a list of some 187 scientists alive today (or recently deceased) who believe in the biblical account of creation ("Creation Scientists...", 2010). The scientists who are listed all possess a doctorate in a science-related field. Over 90 different scientific fields are represented in the list, including several types of engineers, chemists, geneticists, physicists, and biologists. Astronomers and astrophysicists; geologists and geophysicists; physicians and surgeons; micro-, molecular, and neurobiologists; paleontologists and zoologists are represented, and the list goes on. Jerry Bergman amassed a list of more than 3,000 individuals. Most have a Ph.D. in science, and many more could be added, according to Bergman.

On my list I have well over 3,000 names including Nobel Prize winners, but, unfortunately, a large number of persons that could be added to the public list, including many college professors, did not want their name listed because of real concerns over possible retaliation or harm to their careers (2006).

For over 30 years, we at Apologetics Press have conducted numerous seminars and published hundreds of articles by "qualified," credentialed scientists who speak out in support of the biblical account of creation as well—scientists with graduate degrees in geology, astrophysics, microbiology, neurobiology, cell biology, medicine, biochemistry, aerospace engineering, nuclear engineering, and biomechanical engineering. Creationists can certainly speak with credibility in scientific matters. However, again, the ultimate question is not how many scientists are standing on either side of the battle line. Majorities or "consensus" is not the deciding

factor (cf. Miller, 2012). The question is who is speaking **the truth**? Who is taking the scientific evidence and drawing reasonable, accurate conclusions from the facts? The answer is clear to the unbiased observer. Science supports **creation**—not evolution.

There is certainly something to be said about the value of having credentials and experience in the area in which one is speaking, because that person will often have a broader perspective about a subject than the next person. But it is also true that that person should not be blindly accepted without critical thinking. Regardless of one's credentials, the audience must still consider the validity of the argument being offered. When all is said and done, the theory—not the person discussing it—should be where the emphasis lies. As always, we challenge the audience to disprove our contentions. Truth will always win. It will set us free.

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## SPEAKING SCHEDULES

### Kyle Butt

December 14-16	Mathis, TX	(361) 944-9998
December 28-29	Huntsville, AL	(334) 386-7320

### Eric Lyons

December 28-29	Huntsville, AL	(334) 386-7320
January 11-13	Milton, FL	(850) 623-8191

### Dave Miller

December 1-2	Wildwood, FL	(352) 748-1040
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**NOTE FROM***The Editor**New Early Reader Book*

Children are naturally curious about their own bodies. “Why do I have two eyes?” “How do my ears work?” “Who made me?” Parents are regularly pummeled with such earnest inquiries. The Bible says that the human body is “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14). Our bodies were masterfully designed in a way that proves there is a loving, intelligent God. This message simply must be presented to children at an early age in order to impress upon them the reality of the great Ruler of the Universe. One tool to do so is our newly released Early Reader book *God Made You*. This book helps children understand more about God and the well-designed human body He created.

The Apologetics Press Early Reader Series is a set of books aimed at children in kindergarten through second grade. Depending on the age of your children, this series is flexible enough

**God Made  
You**

by Kyle Butt



so that parents may choose to read to their children, read along with their children, or listen while their children read aloud to them. With interesting, understandable text and captivating pictures, your children will fall in love with reading and with their Creator. Don't forget the other volumes in our Early Reader Series: *God Made Animals*, *God Made Dinosaurs*, *God Made Fish*, *God Made Insects*, *God Made Plants*, and *God Made the World*. And don't forget our two other reader series—

the Learn to Read books as well as our Advanced Readers. Please consider introducing children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors, and other youngsters in your acquaintance to these effective volumes.

**Dave Miller**

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for More Details